

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

**Emergency Order 05-09-05**

**Issued at** Bethel, Alaska  
November 30, 2005

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m.  
December 1, 2005

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2006  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order opens from December 20, 2005 to January 10, 2006 the resident moose season with a bag limit of one antlered bull or one calf in the following portion of Unit 18:

North and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mt. Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village. (*Note: this area is commonly referred to as the area "below Mt. Village".*)

Additionally, this emergency order opens a winter resident season in the remainder of Unit 18 from December 20, 2005 to January 10, 2006 with a bag limit of one antlered bull. The remainder of Unit 18 includes the area:

Westerly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake, then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and south and east of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mt. Village and including all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village. (*Note: this area is identified as the remainder of Unit 18 in the Regulation Section. It is also commonly referred to as the area "north and west of the moratorium area" or the area "along the Yukon River."*)

Note that this announcement DOES NOT OPEN the moose season within or south and east of the portion of Unit 18 known as the "moratorium area" (*Note: the "moratorium area" is defined as that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake, then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage*).

All other moose seasons and bag limits in Unit 18 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.


**REGULATION:**

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.045 (a) (16) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE** pertaining to Unit 18 are superseded by this emergency order, as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(16)		
...		
Unit 18, that portion north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mt. Village and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mt. Village (however, portions of this area may be closed to the taking of calves by emergency order)		
1 <b>antlered</b> bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30	Sept. 1–Sept. 30
1 <b>antlered</b> bull or 1 <b>calf</b>	Dec. 20–Jan. 10	
Remainder of Unit 18		
1 <b>antlered</b> bull per regulatory year	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Dec. 20–Jan. 10	Sept. 1–Sept. 30

McKie Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

  
Roger Seavoy  
Area Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

During the November 2005 Alaska Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue, the Board adopted bag limit changes and a winter season general hunt from Dec. 20 – Jan 10 for the portions of Unit 18 identified in this announcement. The action by the Board replaces a 10-day announced season used in past years with a 22-day general season for winter hunting in specific portions of Unit 18. The Board approved these changes for the current regulatory year through an emergency order issued by the

department. The new winter season applies to two hunt areas with associated changes to the bag limit:

- 1) 1 antlered bull or 1 calf bag limit in the area below Mt. Village, and
- 2) 1 antlered bull bag limit in the remainder of Unit 18 (north and west of the “moratorium area”, and south and east of the area below Mt. Village).

The winter season openings will provide additional harvest opportunity from the growing moose populations in portions of Unit 18. Along the Yukon River below Mt. Village, a longer season and more liberal bag limit is established where recent surveys show a density estimate greater than 1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> and a calf:adult ratio of 63.9 calves:100 adults. In the area north and west of the ‘moratorium area’, greater harvest opportunity is justified in response to densities as high as 1.52 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> and calf:adult ratios greater than 40 calves:100 adults.

Hunting pressure by the over 23,000 Unit 18 residents can vary greatly with weather and the timing of this season is designed to allow for varying levels of hunting pressure by protecting antlerless bulls. Most of the bulls in this population will have cast their antlers by the time the season starts and very few bulls will still carry antlers at seasons’ end. This will assure adequate survival of bulls even during years when travel conditions are good and hunting pressure is high.

A longer winter season will satisfy local desires to harvest moose in preparation for the Slavic holidays. This action will also: align state and federal bag limits; eliminate the need for season extensions due to poor weather; reduce the likelihood that cows will be mistakenly shot; and facilitate hunt-planning through a set winter season.

Federal managers will accomplish equivalent changes and under their regulations. Hunters should be aware that under federal regulations, Unit 18 moose hunters must be residents of Unit 18.

This emergency order DOES NOT OPEN the moose season within or south and east of the “moratorium area” (that portion of Unit 18 easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowitz River to the closest point of Dall Lake to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake, then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border). This area will remain closed in accordance with strategies to establish moose populations within the excellent moose habitat along the Kuskokwim River and within the Unit 18 drainages south of the Eek River. These strategies were agreed upon after considerable discussion with the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the US Fish and Wildlife Service refuge offices in Bethel and Dillingham, and village leaders. The consensus of these groups was to leave this area closed to encourage establishment and growth of moose populations.